

## AGAINST THE INCOME TAX

Coming Decision of the Supreme Court Will Upset the Law Completely.

## MAJORITY FINALLY AGREES ON ALL POINTS

Changing of Opinions and Shifting of Positions Surround the Outcome with Uncertainty for a Time, but It's All Over Now.

Washington special to the Chicago Tribune: Chief Justice Fuller has completed writing a decision which upsets the income tax law entirely and wipes it off the statute books. The decision has been put in type, returned from the printer, and is now being considered by the majority justices solely on the grounds of its general expressions. The law itself is a thing of the past.

This result has been reached only after a series of remarkable changes in the court, the entire history of which is not likely to be given to the public, Justice Jackson, on whom the burden of the case seemed to rest, took sides in favor of the constitutionality of the law as a whole, but united with the other justices in exempting rents and profits from the operation of the law. His decision apparently settled the matter and the friends of the law were more or less triumphant.

Unfortunately, just at this time, which was shortly after noon last Saturday, it became evident that one of the justices in favor of the law, but against the rents, saw fit to change his opinion. In the original hearing of the case he voted that taxation of rents was not constitutional, but that the law, as a whole, was good law. Saturday he withdrew from his original position and voted that a tax on rents was not a direct tax, and that it did not assail the broad principles laid down in the constitution.

If it should happen that Justice Brown writes an opinion Monday afternoon, dissenting opinion, it is probable he is the one who changed back from his previous advanced opinion, which was well established. The conference of Saturday developed the fact that Chief Justice Fuller, Justices Field, Gray and Brewer were still opposed to the law as a whole. Practically the whole court was willing to exempt rents and municipal bonds. A majority of the court, including Justice Jackson, was opposed to the tax on rents.

An apparent majority in favor of upholding the law as a whole, but just at this juncture Justice Shiras, who had wavered during the first hearing, began to show evidence of wavering. He had been in the majority on the question of the tax on rents, but now he was writing the decision of the court.

Finally Mr. Justice Shiras took his stand with the opponents of the law, and then the chief justice went to work on his opinion, knowing it would be rejected by the court. It will almost certainly be handed down Monday, and the chances are there will be several individual opinions delivered that day.

Next Monday is an anniversary for Justice Field, for on that day he completes thirty-two years of service on the bench. He is expected to celebrate the event by an opinion expressing his personal view of the law, which in the main coincides with that of the other justices. Chief Justice Fuller is expected to present a strong dissenting opinion, still further upholding the doctrine of state debts.

Justice Brown, if it be as alleged, that he will change his opinion on the question of rent, will be likely to explain his position. Justice Harlan delivered a short dissenting opinion before. He is expected to go into the details of the law. All of that day, and possibly part of Tuesday, may be taken up in reading the different opinions, and when they are all in, but one opinion will be left standing.

The people who are liable to be placed in a hole are those who have already paid their taxes. The opinion prevails at the Treasury department that the money cannot be paid back except by the delivery of the usual vouchers of the government, the secretary of the treasury cannot pay out one silver dollar to anybody except on the usual vouchers.

The payment of the income taxes will be undoubtedly one of the items in the urgency of the treasury department for the next session, but the item may not get through congress for a year.

## OIL HAS ADVANCED IN RUSSIA

Producers in that Country Have Been Working for Small Profits.

WASHINGTON, May 18.—Consul General Kovel at St. Petersburg, under date of April 30, has made a report to the State department upon the petroleum industry of Russia. He says the great opponent of the American petroleum industry in the foreign market is the Russian product and in order to meet competition the Russians try to reduce expenses everywhere. Owing to the increase in prices in the London market, the American petroleum industry has been forced to advance prices. For the two previous years the profits have not been large, but so far in the year 1895 there is a large trade in good prices.

According to the report of the minister of finance, the Russian oil industry continues itself with the hope that in the near future the American petroleum wells will be opened in the Caspian sea, and that Russia will then control the European oil business. The same paper says: "During the last year the Russian oil industry has been working for small profits. The Russian States had to suspend the export of petroleum to the Asiatic markets, and according to the most trustworthy calculations, the American wells will not be able to supply the demand of the European markets, which they have heretofore been supplying, and which will be supplied with Russian petroleum."

Attempts have been made to agree upon a division of the international markets and during the last few days such an agreement has been effected and presented to the minister of finance for confirmation. A note by the State department states here that the announcement of the Russian minister of finance, that the Russian minister of finance has refused his assent.

## WANT TO ANNOUNCE IT FIRST

Supreme Court Judges Not Willing to Be Forewarned in Their Decision.

WASHINGTON, May 18.—It was generally expected that the justices of the supreme court today would hold another conference on the income tax question for the purpose of reaching a final conclusion and of passing upon the opinion of the court and the dissenting opinion of the justices who might dissent from the majority. But the conference did not take place and will not until Monday morning, immediately preceding the reconvening of the court. It is customary with the court to hold its consultations on Saturday and there are three theories advanced for today's departure from the usual practice.

1. That the justices engaged in the work of writing the opinions may not have concluded their labors.

2. That some one or more of the justices may desire further time for consideration of the questions involved in the income tax law.

3. That the premature announcement of the court's final decision on the case has resulted in a determination not to confer until the last moment before the law is made transpiring until public announcement.

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Great Britain, however, is not alone in this remarkably sudden change from balmy spring to shivering winter. Advice received from various parts of the continent of Europe show that a similar state of things prevails. In Switzerland, for instance, the Jura district is blocked with snow and the mountain roads are impassable. The French coast is imbedded in the snow and the people who were traveling in these vehicles had to seek refuge in neighboring hospices. Along the coast of France the gales have been especially severe and it is feared that there has been loss of life among small craft which have been carried off the coast. The French government will be making great preparations for the sudden change in the weather.

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The Italian fleet will be commanded by the duke of Genoa. France will only send three ships, but they will represent 15,000 tons and will be carried by three Spanish ships. Scandinavia will send five ships, representing 8,375 tons, with fifty-officers and 675 men, under Rear Admiral Klintberg. There will be three Spanish ships, representing 17,865 tons, with fifty-six officers and 1,233 men. The Danish fleet will be represented by three war ships, with thirty-two officers and 2,900 men.

The Netherlands will send two war ships, representing 4,575 tons, with twenty-five officers and 413 men. There will be three Dutch ships present, representing 1,650 tons, with twenty-three officers and 400 men. Turkey will be represented by a cruiser of 300 tons, having on board fifteen officers and 300 men.

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The Alvarado, which will be commanded by Rear Admiral the Archduke Charles Stephen. Russia will send three ships under Rear Admiral Skidlov, with seventy officers and 1,200 men and 2,000 tons of supplies. Italy will make a gallant showing with nine war vessels, carrying 150 officers and 3,210 men.

The Italian fleet will be commanded by the duke of Genoa. France will only send three ships, but they will represent 15,000 tons and will be carried by three Spanish ships. Scandinavia will send five ships, representing 8,375 tons, with fifty-officers and 675 men, under Rear Admiral Klintberg. There will be three Spanish ships, representing 17,865 tons, with fifty-six officers and 1,233 men. The Danish fleet will be represented by three war ships, with thirty-two officers and 2,900 men.

The Netherlands will send two war ships, representing 4,575 tons, with twenty-five officers and 413 men. There will be three Dutch ships present, representing 1,650 tons, with twenty-three officers and 400 men. Turkey will be represented by a cruiser of 300 tons, having on board fifteen officers and 300 men.